

Application No.: 10/049,449
Amendment dated: June 29, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: DECEMBER 29, 2005
Atty. Ref.: 010100-109

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 1 & 5, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1 & 5. In FIG. 1, the legend "Prior Art" has been added as required in the Office Action.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated DECEMBER 29, 2005.

In the Office Action, claims 111-126 are noted as pending in the application, claims 111-120 stand rejected, claims 112-120 are objected to because of their dependencies, and no claims are presently allowed. Claims 121-126 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2-110 were previously canceled, and claim 1 is now canceled by this amendment. New claims 127-130 are added.

Drawings

Figure 1 has been provided with the legend -- Prior Art -- as suggested in the Office Action.

Claim Objections

Claims 112-120 are objected to because of their dependencies. All claims 112-120 are now dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 111. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice since that claim has not been examined.

Double Patenting

Claim 112 was considered to be a substantial duplicate of claim 115. Claim 115 has been canceled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 111-120 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Enright et al.*, U.S. Patent No, 6,583,813. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration of the claims and application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the claims have been amended, but claim 111 is not amended as a result of the rejection, but instead to ensure that the recitations already in the claim

are properly interpreted. Specifically, the phrase “configured to” is added to ensure that the functional language already in the claim is not ignored. Additionally, combination in the original claim of “selectively” and “and/or” were intended to permit selective provide either playback or live, but the Examiner appears to have interpreted “selectively” and “and/or” as requiring only one but not both. However, such an interpretation ignores “selectively” and gives that term no weight. The claim has therefore been amended so that the term “selectively” is understood by the Examiner.

Consider first Applicants’ disclosure.

Applicants disclose a system for low-latency remote video monitoring of one or more areas or processes of interest. An example referenced herein of an area of interest is a detention center, and a process of interest referenced herein includes smelter for molten metal. As shown in FIG. 2, the system includes a plurality of cameras, each of which is positioned respectively at or adjacent an area or process of interest. Camera streamers 4 connect the cameras 2 to a computer communications network 6. A computer server such as a video server 8 is connected to the network by means of a suitable interface. A computer terminal in the form of a client computer 10 is also connected to the network 6 for communication with the network. Each camera may provide an output, for example in analog form, to respective camera streamers 4, but cameras with compressed or uncompressed digital outputs can also be used. Each camera streamer 4 receives the signal from the respective camera and converts it to a predetermined digital format, which is then packetized into a suitable network format and placed on the network. In one example, the data is compressed. [See, Specification, page 13, line 16, through page 15, line 8.]

In one example, the video server 8 includes storage means in the form of a hard disk drive 16 (FIG. 5) for storing the streamed video taken from the network 6. [See, Specification, page 15, lines 17-22.] The video server can receive and store first video signals according to a predetermined schedule. The server can selectively access both the stored signals and also the first video signals, and selectively provide playback second video signals and live second video signals, respectively. [See, Specification, at page 12, lines 3-6, and the accompanying Figures and text.] Therefore, a client

computer terminal can be used to selectively display either live video feeds from the cameras or playback video feeds from storage.

A system having the ability to selectively provide stored video feeds and low-latency, live video feed is desirable for a number of applications. For example, in a process control environment, a remote operator can use live video to control a process, for example the pouring of molten steel. [See, Specification at page 5, lines 7 et seq.] In another application, a corrections facility guard can remotely open a door after also being able to remotely observe the area around the door to verify that only the appropriate people are allowed through the door.

All of the claims are rejected based on *Enright et al.*, U.S. Pat No. 6,583,813. *Enright* shows a system and method for capturing image data that captures images responsive to program sequences. The sequences are performed on a periodic basis as well as in response to inputs corresponding to alarm conditions and transactions conducted at automated banking machines or other devices. Image data may also be captured in response to image conditions, including the sensing of motion or loss of usable video from selected cameras. Image data is stored in connection with data corresponding to the circumstances associated with a triggering event. Stored data may be searched by one or more parameters. Parameters include data stored in association with each image, types of events causing image data to be stored, as well as other image conditions in stored images.

However, nothing in *Enright* teaches or suggests providing live video to a client, but only the storing of image data of a number of types of events so that the data can be searched and reviewed at a later date, for example in the event that a discrepancy is discovered or alleged in connection with an automated teller machine or a customer account. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of monitoring low-latency, live video, and one skilled in the art would not be motivated to consider the teaching of *Enright* as relevant to the present inventions. Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion of modes for remote control in the forms taught by Applicants, and there is no teaching or suggestion of streaming video onto a network.

It is noted that *Enright* is easily distinguishable based on its disclosure. Therefore, Applicants need not address at this time and reserve the right to establish priority over the reference. No rights are waived by not addressing at this time the dates to which the reference is entitled. Additionally, it is noted that the Office Action does not establish that those portions of the *Enright* reference relied upon in the Office Action are entitled to the earliest priority date of October 9, 1998.

Consider now the claims in the application. Claim 111 is an independent apparatus claim reciting in part:

“a plurality of cameras for providing respective first video signals to a computer communications network;

“a video server for linking to the network, . . . wherein the server is configured to access the stored signals and to access the first video signals to selectively provide playback second video signals and live second video signals, respectively;

“at least one client computer terminal for linking to the network for providing the predetermined schedule and for receiving the second signals.”

None of the cited references taken singly or in combination teach or suggest the claimed combination, the recited elements quoted above, or the “video server for linking to the network, . . . wherein the server is configured to access the stored signals and to access the first video signals to selectively provide playback second video signals and live second video signals, respectively”. *Enright* does not even suggest live second video signals and appears to teach only image storage and later search and playback. Clearly, claim 111 is patentable over the cited references.

The claims 112-114, 116-120 and 127-130 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent claim 111 and are asserted as being patentable for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 111, for the additional combinations in the dependent claims as well as for the additional limitations recited in the dependent in claims. Note in particular claim 120 reciting in part “wherein the processing of the

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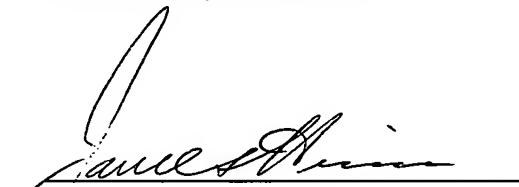
commands by the video server includes a determination of whether or not the terminal sending the respective command has access rights to the relevant camera." Note also, claim 127 reciting in part "wherein the first video signals are compressed by the cameras." Additionally, claim 128 "wherein each of said cameras is linked to said network via a camera streamer." Claim 129 recites "wherein the camera streamers compress the respective first video signals." Also, claim 130 recites "wherein the camera streamers packetise the first video signals and place the packetised data onto the network." *Enright* fails to teach or suggest the claimed combinations.

Reconsideration of the application and claims in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Early notice of allowance thereof is earnestly solicited. If there are any matters remaining that would preclude allowance of the claims, Applicants respectfully request the courtesy of a telephone interview to resolve any open issues.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayments to our deposit Account No. 50-0655. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

This response is being filed with a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time.

Respectfully submitted,



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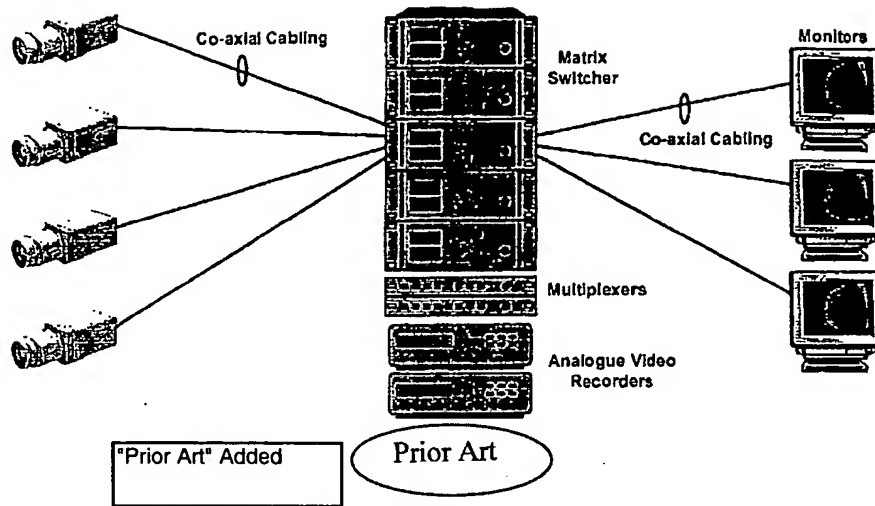


Figure 1

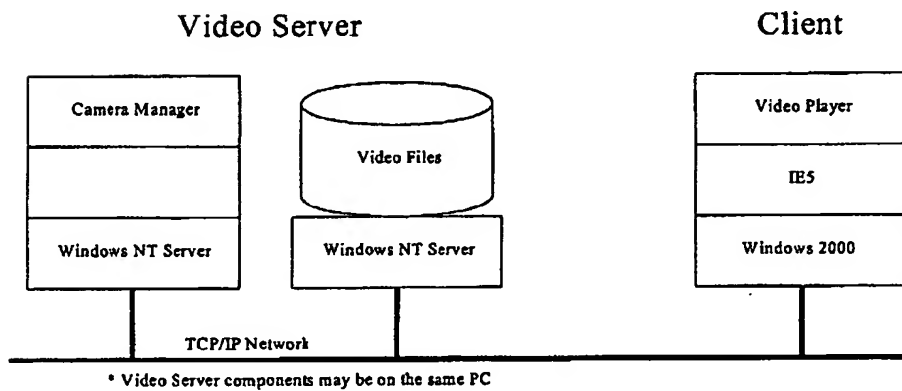


Figure 5